

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00  
USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01  
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 /123 W  
-----038224 301213Z /10

R 300722Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3993

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 20037

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

1. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THIS WEEK RELEASED NOVEMBER LABOR FORCE STATISTICS, SHOWING UNEMPLOYMENT TOTALED 1.03 MILLION OR 2 PCT (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED). ALTHOUGH MINISTRY OF LABOR PREDICTED EARLIER THIS FALL THAT FIGURE WOULD FALL BELOW ONE MILLION IN NOVEMBER BECAUSE LABOR MARKET CUSTOMARILY IMPROVES IN THE BUSY PRE-HOLIDAY SEASON, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN NOVEMBER ACTUALLY INCREASED 30 THOUSAND OVER OCTOBER FIGURE (AND 60 THOUSAND OVER NOVEMBER 1976) AND HAS NOW BEEN OVER ONE MILLION FOR 11TH CONSECUTIVE MONTH. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED RATIO OF JOB OFFERS TO JOB SEEKERS IN NOVEMBER STOOD AT 0.51, LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1963. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED MALES (660 THOUSAND) INCREASED BY 30 THOUSAND OVER OCTOBER, REVERSING PATTERN OF LAST 4 MONTHS, WHILE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED FEMALES, WHICH SHOWED SLOW BUT STEADY DROP IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR, HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE JULY.

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2. ACCORDING TO LABOR MINISTRY, UNEXPECTED LACK OF IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN NOVEMBER, IN SPITE OF SHARP RISE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, EXPLAINABLE IN PART BY RELUCTANCE OF FIRMS TO HIRE NEW WORKERS SO LONG AS EXISTING WORK FORCE UNDER-UTILIZED AND BY RETURN TO JOB MARKET ANY TIME ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IMPROVE OF

MANY HOUSEWIVES AND OTHERS WHO HAD DROPPED OUT OF LABOR  
FORCE AT EARLIER STAGE OF BUSINESS SLUMP.

3. ONLY BRIGHT NOTE IN EMPLOYMENT PICTURE WAS 8 HUNDRED 10  
THOUSAND INCREASE IN TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYED (53.8 MILLION)  
IN LAST 12 MONTHS. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY REGISTERED SLIGHT  
INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT BUT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SHOWED RELATIVELY  
SHARP DECLINE. AVERAGE WEEKLY WORKING HOURS IN NOVEMBER REMAINED  
AT 46.8, VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FROM OCTOBER. AVERAGE OVERTIME WORKED  
IN NOVEMBER WAS 12.4 HOURS AN 0.8 PCT DECREASE FROM NOVEMBER 1976.  
MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNEMPLOYMENT  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009